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6 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Ernest Baynard, Staff Assistant, House Subcommittee on Government Activities

1. Yesterday in the company of [] Office of Logistics, met with Mr. Ernest C. Baynard, Staff Assistant, House Subcommittee on Government Activities, of House Government Operations. Also in attendance were three members of Mr. Baynard's staff. This meeting had been called by Mr. Baynard in connection with allegations that painting contractors had "chiseled" on a government contract to repaint the interior of the Headquarters building in 1965.

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2. Baynard acknowledged that GSA and not the Agency was responsible for letting the contract, monitoring the work, and final inspection. He also indicated that he had conducted a fairly thorough review of GSA's participation.

3. Baynard said that several painters who worked on the job at CIA have claimed that only one coat of paint was applied. This is in conflict with the statement of other painters who worked on the job and say that two coats were applied. Baynard said he would like to resolve this conflict and intimated that economic pressure has affected the accuracy of the statements the Subcommittee has received from the painters.

4. Baynard is interested in developing independent facts relating to these allegations. He is hopeful that the Agency employees who acted as security escorts on the job might be able to recall the number of coats of paint applied. If we can locate several of these escorts, Mr. Baynard would like to be given the opportunity to meet directly with them and hear them out. There were other specific requests by Baynard including whether the Agency possessed a record of the number of gallons of paint delivered to and taken away from the Headquarters building, and whether the furniture movers or other employees could recall whether furniture in repainted rooms had been moved away from the wall more than once. [] said we kept no records of the number of gallons of paint delivered to and taken away from the building. Baynard also requested that we supply the subcommittee with a chip of a wall that had been repainted in 1965 for the contract and not repainted since.

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5. Mr. Baynard was told that we wanted to cooperate fully with the Subcommittee. In connection with Mr. Baynard's statement that the contract called for two coats throughout the building he acknowledged that he was aware of certain exceptions which he said he assumes were documented by "change orders." He has not yet checked whether "change orders" actually exist. Mr. Baynard would not narrow down an area in the building where the painters allege that only one coat was applied. He said that the painters making the allegation said that it applied throughout the building. If this is so, any evidence that two coats were applied would tend to disprove these allegations.

6. Baynard said he intended to push for a formal investigation on "painting chiseling" and says that several other Federal buildings are involved. Baynard reiterated his often heard statement that it is his opinion that the CIA and its activities should not be news copy and he is hopeful that this "informal review" will be as far as he has to go with us.

7. Mr. Baynard appeared to fully agree with [redacted] description of our minimal role in this control. We agreed that we would be back in touch with him as soon as we could. He said that he did not want us to "break our back" in pulling the facts together for him.

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OLC/LLM:raw (10 April 1967)

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